Exploration of Minerals in NER

737. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds allotted for exploration of minerals in the North-Eastern States, State-wise;

(b) the agency which is taking up exploration of minerals in the North-Eastern Region and where its Head Quarter is;

(c) the present prospects of exploration of minerals in the North-Eastern States, State-wise; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Manipur is not included in that exploration?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) Funds utilised by Geological Survey of India in the North-Eastern Region on mineral exploration and other related studies during last three years are as follows:

YEAR	FUND UTILISED				(IN RUPEES)
	Assam Division (Hqrs. Guwahati)	Operation Arunachal Pradesh (Hqrs. Itanagar)	Manipur Nagaland Division (Hqrs. Dimapur)	Tripura Mizoram (Hqrs. Agartala)	Meghalaya (Hqrs. Shillong
1999-2000	128,37,783	100,33,826	56,75,000	73,49,000	874,08,471
1998-1999	112,22,000	88,18,480	54,40,000	61,91,000	768,78,520
1997-1998	81,19,000	76,28,538	45,73,000	53,58,000	657,62,462

(b) The Geological Survey of India (GSI's) North-Eastern Regional Office with Headquarters at Shillong and the Mineral

Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) with Headquarters at Nagpur are the exploration agencies in the North-Eastern Region.

(c) The important prospects established by GSI and MECL in the North-Eastern States, State-wise are as under:—

Geological Survey of India

State	Mineral	Reserves (m.t.) Estimated
Arunachal Pradesh	Ferrosilicon Grade quartzite	3.13
	Limestone/Marble	2.92/2.80
	Dolomite	247
Assam	Granite(Dimension Stone)	
Manipur	Limestone	9.6
Meghalaya	Limestone	7382
	Granite(Dimension Stone)	
	Clays	Reserve
	Apatite	1.30
	Bauxite	1.12
Nagaland	Magnetite	1.83
Tripura	Clay	50 lakh tonnes
	Silica	4 lakh tonnes
	Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited	
Arunachal Pradesh	Coal	55.73
	Quartzite	1.25
Assam	Coal	133.95
Meghalaya	Coal	79.46
	Limestone	229.97

State	Mineral	Reserves (m.t.) Estimated
	Sillimanite	0.01
Nagaland	Coal	2.45

(d) No, Sir. GSI has surveyed the State of Manipur as mentioned at (c) above.

Transfer of BALCO to Private Sector

†738. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hand over Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) to the private sector;

(b) if so, the conditions laid for its transfer from public sector to private sector;

(c) whether employees of the Company would work as private sector employees;

(d) if so, the conditions laid down therefor; and

(e) if not, where and how the employees of BALCO would be adjusted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (e) The decision of Government to disinvest 51% of its equity in Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) as a first step, is based on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission and is in line with Government policy on disinvestment. The disinvestment is taking place through global competitive bidding. The terms and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.